

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 /056 W

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O 092205Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 910

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6303

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, PE

SUBJ: COUP RUMORS

1. EMBASSY RECEIVING REPORTS, SEVERAL OF THEM FROM RELIABLE SOURCES, THAT A COUP OR AT LEAST A MAJOR CHALLENGE TO THE MORALES BERMUDEZ REGIME MAY NOW BE IN PROCESS. THE NAVAL FLEET HAS APPARENTLY SAILED IN A SHOW OF PROTEST OR AS PART OF A MORE EXTENSIVE POWER PLAY. OTHER UNCONFIRMED REPORTS SAY THAT ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL LUIS LA VERA HAS CONFRONTED PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ IN THE PALACE WITH UNSPECIFIED DEMANDS; THAT THE MILITARY TRAINING CENTER (CIMP) AS "EVOLTED"; AND THAT ADMIRAL PARODI AND POSSIBLY OTHER JUNTA MEMBERS REPLACED.

2. RUMORS DIFFER AS TO OUTCOME OF WHATEVER MAY BE TAKING PLACE ALTHOUGH SEVERAL SUGGEST THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ IS TO BE REPLACED. SOME HAVE GENERAL CARLOS BOBBIO CENTURION, DIRECTOR OF THE CIMP
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ON TOP AND THE NEXT PRESIDENT. OTHERS CLAIM THAT PRIME MINISTER

FERNANDEZ MALDONADO IS LEADING THE ALLEGED COUP. INTENSE POLITICAL-MILITARY ACTIVITY IS CERTAINLY TAKING PLACE AND GOP MINISTERS ARE SUDDENLY UNAVAILABLE. FONMIN DE LA FLOR HAS JUST POSTPONED A 5 PM MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR.

3. IF CONFRONTATION OR COUP TAKING PLACE, CATALYST MAY HAVE BEEN THIS MORNING'S MILITARY CEREMONY COMMEMORATING THOSE KILLED IN THE 1932 APRA-LED UPRISING. APRA HAD CANCELLED ITS JULY 7 COMMEMORATION OF THOSE EVENTS AND EMBASSY HAD HEARD THAT PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ,

ALONG WITH OTHER GOP MODERATES, WISHED TO RETURN THE GESTURE. HOWEVER, FERNANDEZ MALDONADO CARRIED THE DAY AND HIS SPEECH AT THE CEREMONY WAS EXTREMELY HARSH. HE DECLARED THAT "WE CONTINUE TO BE IRREVOCABLY OPPOSED TO THE POLITICAL AGGRESSION TO WHICH WE ARE REFERRING (APRA), NOW FOR VERY DIFFERENT REASONS THAN IN THE PAST".

4. AIDE TO FERNANDEZ MALDONADO HAS JUST TOLD EMOFF THAT THE REASON ALLUDED TO IS APRA'S ATTEMPT TO ENTER INTO POLITICAL COLLUSION WITH PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ. AIDE WENT ON TO SAY THAT FERNANDEZ MALDONADO WAS DEFINITELY ON TOP POLITICALLY, THAT HE HAD PUSHED THROUGH A STILL RADICAL POLITICAL PLAN TUPAC AMARU AND THAT HE WOULD SEE TO IT THAT POLITICAL JOURNALS DID NOT RE-OPEN, IN SPITE OF PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ' "SENSITIVITIES". HOWEVER, ADDRESSING HIMSELF TO POSSIBLE POLITICAL CHANGES, AIDE SAID THAT BEST BET WAS MORALES BERMUDEZ WOULD REMAIN PRESIDENT THROUGH JULY 28 AND THAT NO CABINET CHANGES WOULD OCCUR UNTIL THEN. HIS ONLY ALLUSION TO POLITICAL TURMOIL WAS THAT IF THINGS GET HOT HE COULD EITHER SOON BE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR OR ALTERNATIVELY BE DEPORTED.

5. WE HAVE RECEIVED RELIABLE REPORTS THAT EXCHANGE OF FIRE BETWEEN ARMY UNITS NOW UNDERWAY IN LIMA SUBURB OF CHORRILLOS APPARENTLY AT CIMP LOCATION. WE HAVE ALSO HEARD THAT THE AIR FORCE IS TAKING MEASURES TO PROTECT THE NEARBY LAS PALMAS AIR BASE IN CHORRILLOS.
DEAN

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